

# The CityScene



FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF MURFREESBORO

## Survey shows 'education' still most important

**200 YEARS**  
1811-2011



A recent USA Today Gallup poll shows how Americans feel about getting ahead in life: 36 percent say the most important factor is a good education.

Hard work was named most important by almost as many respondents. It seems the two are almost equally important. They say the more you know, the better off you will be, but success in life also takes hard work and dedication.

Poll findings were the same, regardless of age, race, gender or income and education levels. The findings are also consistent with surveys by the non-profit Public Agenda.

Other factors named were: Saving and smart spending decisions, 14 percent; knowing the right people, 8 percent; coming from a wealthy family, 5 percent; natural ability, 3 percent; and luck, 2 percent.

## Third city employee roundtable now complete



**BY JIM CRUMLEY**  
*Assistant City Manager*

### 1. Is the City considering employee performance evaluations?

Employee performance evaluations are an important part of improving the productivity of any work group. It is a systematic process where the strengths, weaknesses and expectations of the employee and supervisor are openly discussed and recorded with the goal being a shared understanding. Done well, performance evaluations boost productivity and morale.

Currently, only new hires, promoted and disciplinary probation employees are being evaluated on their performance. And these are short term, temporary processes.

Long term, employee performance evaluations are a needed part of building a more productive organization. But to do evaluations well requires substantial supervisor training and preparation that



make and record the work observations and relationships upon which appraisals are based. Look for more discussions of em-

ployee performance evaluations in the next couple of years.

### 2. Is the City considering all employees going to Direct Deposit of their paychecks?

Direct Deposit is a convenient and safe method of having your paycheck deposited immediately in the bank account of your choice. It is also more cost effective for the City to electronically move thousands of paychecks per year. Some benefits of Direct Deposit are no lost or stolen checks and the convenience of knowing your money is in your account on payday, even if you are sick, out of town or unable to get to the bank. For those with no bank account, a pre-paid debit card exactly equal to the payroll is issued to the employee.

For administration, a direct deposit costs cents to process while a paper check costs dollars.



## SPRING BUNNY PUZZLE



Matthew Blomeley, Murfreesboro Principle Planner, and Sarah Bowles were married Jan. 14 at 11 a.m. in Berea, Ky.

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No decision has been made about Direct Deposit at this time. Rutherford County government has just decided to convert all payrolls to Direct Deposit by the end of 2012. Stay tuned for further developments.

### 3. Can the use of sick leave be expanded to consider relatives that reside with the employee?

Yes, as long as those relatives are family members listed in Section 1003-(c) of the Employee Handbook which states, "An employee may use accrued sick leave based on the employee's medical needs or the medical needs of the following members of the employee's family: spouse, children (including step-children, foster children, children under legal guardianship, etc.), parents and

parents-in-law."

Place of residence does not enter into the family relationship for whom sick leave can be used.

### 4. What about longevity pay? Any increase?

Murfreesboro had provided longevity pay in the amount of \$60 for each completed year of service until the economic downturn. Those longevity payments were frozen in FY 2009. The budget for the current year, FY 2011-2012, restored the longevity payments plus an extra \$60 to make up for one

year where increases due to service were not funded.

### 5. What is the plan for future radio communications in Public Safety?

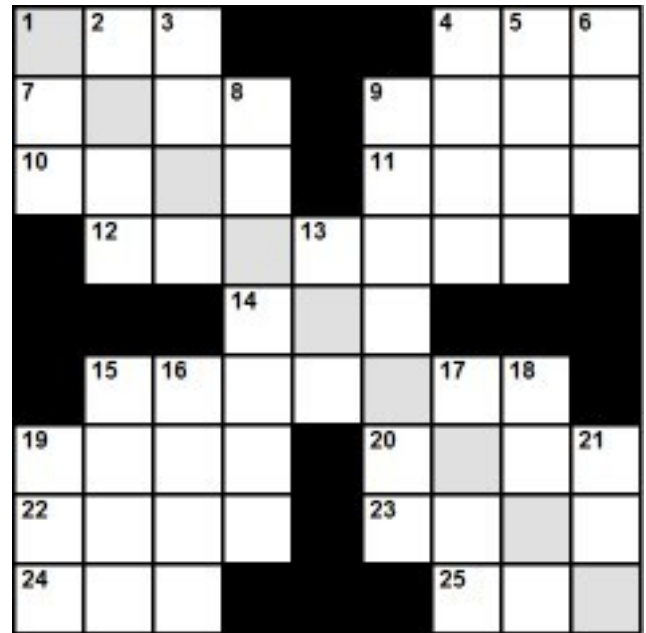
The need to replace the existing radio system for Public Safety and other users is still being studied. The single largest issue is price and how the City can fit the \$10M to \$15M cost into the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Currently, a new system is at a price of \$10 million is scheduled during 2013 in the proposed CIP. To improve current radio coverage and redundancy, three

### Across

1. Dash abbr.
4. Ballpoint, e.g.
7. Au \_\_\_\_
9. Knockout
10. Copter's forerunner
11. Bakery selections
12. Denounces
14. \_\_\_\_ and ahs
15. Spirits
19. "Beat it!"
20. Innocent
22. Pea holders
23. 60's hairdo
24. Affirmative vote
25. "Comprende?"

### Down

1. It's higher on the hwy.
2. Settled a bill
3. Charter
4. British system of withholding tax
5. Baby blues
6. Dissenting votes
8. Style of baroque architecture:
9. Hindu god
13. Fraternity letter
15. Sailor's cry
16. Mother \_\_\_\_
17. Blockheads
18. Euros replaced them
19. Retreat
21. Adversary





proposed CIP.

#### 6. Has Murfreesboro considered changing its Municipal Court to a General Sessions Court?

No. A change to a General Sessions Court would simplify the hearing of many different offenses that now require Police officers to schedule different dates and locations. However, the process of creating a new General Sessions court would involve an action of the State Legislature and the State agreeing to pick up all or part of the expenses of operating the Court. This has not been discussed by City officials in the last 12 years or longer.

#### 'Eat down the fridge'

It's an expression borrowed from the Great Depression era that means eating foods you already have instead of buying more.

The idea is a healthy one, since the largest percentage of food thrown away is made up of vegetables and fruit. Kim O'Donnel, author of *The Meatlover's Meatless Cookbook*, challenges you to be resourceful for a week or longer in order to reduce food waste.

According to Jonathan Bloom in his book, *American Wasteland*, Americans annually throw away about 197 pounds of food per person.

David (MFRD) and Summer Branch welcomed a baby boy into the world on Feb. 7. August Hallelujah Branch weighed in at 8 lbs, 3oz and was 22 inches long.

#### Government employed 16.6 million in 2010

The 90,740 state and local governments across the country had 16.6 million full-time equivalent employees in 2010, 203,321 fewer than were employed in 2009, according to estimates released this year by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The majority of these employees, nine million, worked in education, followed by the 986,471 working in hospitals, 946,196 working in police protection and 731,692 in corrections.

Part-time state and local government employees numbered 4.8 million in 2010. Local governments accounted for 12.2 million full-time equivalent employees in 2010.

## The Latest Info on Spring Allergies



About 60 million Americans may perhaps be excused if they do not share in the raptures of spring.

That's the estimated number of people who suffer from allergies to spring pollens.

Studies by the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, in New Orleans, suggest that the duration of the suffering season seems to be increasing. One surprising reason: More trees than 100 years ago.

Most allergy sufferers have itchy, watery, red eyes during the allergy season. Eye problems are a neurological reflex that starts in the nose, travels to the brain and back to the eyes and nose again.

Doctors at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, N.Y., say sufferers first try to treat themselves with over-the-

-counter medications. There are many effective eye drops, such as mast cell stabilizing agents, antihistamines and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for relieving redness.

One caution: Using decongestant eye drops (as opposed to simple saline drops) for a long period of time can lead to increased pressure in the eye. Chronic use could lead to glaucoma.

If over-the-counter meds don't relieve your allergy symptoms, see your doctor. Many prescription drugs are available.

New prescription nasal sprays shrink swollen nasal passages. According to the Mayo Clinic, there are also a variety of prescription antihistamines and leukotriene inhibitors that may work for you. Short term oral steroids can be prescribed for those with severe symptoms.

Adults and children who are tired of their spring and fall allergies, and their efforts to treat them, should consider allergy shots. After taking them twice a month for six months, a maintenance shot is given once a month for two to five years. In time, you may not need shots at all.





# Habitat House 100 gains national attention

Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity and the City of Murfreesboro's Community Development Department have received national recognition for their partnership in building the organization's 100th house in Rutherford County.

The project, completed in April 2011, was one of



Those appearing for the presentation were, from left, NCDA Secretary/Treasurer Al Faella, Union, NJ; Murfreesboro Community Development Director John Callow; Murfreesboro Community Development Grant Coordinator Patty Pope; NCDA Vice President Bob Gehret, Boston, Mass.; and NCDA President Barbara Ross, Denton, Texas.

seven in the nation to receive the Audrey Nelson Community Development Achievement Award from the National Community Development Association. The award recognizes innovative use of Community Development Block Grant funds to address the needs of low- and moderate-income families, homes and neighborhoods.

"The review committee was impressed with how many different partners came together to make this project work," said NCDA Executive Director Cardell Cooper. "The key to successful community development work is bring the public, private and nonprofit sectors together and this project accomplished that many times over."

"This award means a lot to us in the Community Development Department because it is our peers saying, 'Well done,'" said Murfreesboro Community Development Director John Callow.

Also honored were Malden, MA; Quincy, MA; Orlando, FL; Hialeah, FL; Davenport, IA; and Gresham, OR. The award was presented on January 20, 2012, in Washington, D.C., at a luncheon highlighted by remarks from Housing and Urban Development Assistant Secretary Mercedes Marquez. Audrey Nelson was NCDA's assistant executive director at the time of her death.

## Murfreesboro's Community Development Block Grant program

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Down payment assistance for income-eligible first-time homebuyers – Zero interest loan of up to \$10,000 to assist with closing costs and down payment; purchaser must bring 1% of purchase price to table and participate in home buyer education program; repayment due on sale of property.

### HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Participants in the Housing Rehabilitation Program must own and reside in the home, be income eligible and current on city and county property taxes. All work is bid and awarded to lowest, best bidder. The Community Development Department maintains a list of eligible contractors, advertises for new contractors once a year but welcomes new contractors to the program at any time.

- **Major Housing Rehabilitation**

Five-year zero-interest forgivable loan for correcting conditions which fail to meet minimum standards required by the International Property Maintenance Code; should rehabilitation not be feasible, the City may recommend a 15-year, zero interest forgivable loan to fund reconstruction.

- **Emergency Repair Program**

Assists qualified very-low income homeowners with grants of up to \$5,000 to cover repairs necessary to correct situations which pose an immediate threat to the health and safety of those who reside in the home.

- **Sanitary Sewer Tap Program**

Assists qualified homeowners in paying sanitary sewer system connection fees; depending on the homeowner's income, the grant covers 75% or 100% of the single-family connection fee and sewer cleanout fee and a portion of the house service charge.

- **Tree Removal Program**

Assists qualified homeowners with a forgivable loan to cover the cost of removing trees which pose a threat to people or property.

### MICROENTERPRISE LOAN PROGRAM

Assists qualified owners of microenterprises (five or fewer employees) with low-interest loans to begin or expand their business. Loans may be used for working capital, equipment and/or machinery. Applicants receive technical assistance both before and after the loan through an agreement with MTSU's Tennessee Small Business Development Center.

### PUBLIC SERVICE GRANTS

More than a dozen organizations currently receive CDBG public service grants ranging from \$3,300 to \$16,244, to assist in providing programs for the low- and moderate-income residents of the City. The grant process is very competitive and all projects selected for funding help meet needs identified in the City's Consolidated Plan. Current subrecipients include the Primary Care & HOPE Clinic, Nurses for New-



## Marking 50 years of poison prevention in the home

The first day of spring brings reminders of preparations one should make to prevent accidental poisonings. If the unthinkable happens, keep this telephone help number handy: (1-800-222-1222)

When spring begins on March 20, thoughts of household cleaning and the beginning of yard work come to mind. It should also remind us of National Poison Prevention Week, always the third week of March (18-24 in 2012). This year marks its 50th anniversary.

Congress established this event to raise awareness and reduce unintentional poisonings. Nationally, poison centers conduct several activities to elevate local attentiveness to the dangers.

You are encouraged to open windows and turn on fans when you use strong chemicals, and to keep them in their original containers rather than in food containers or unlabeled bottles. Always read the directions for use and disposal.

- Never sniff a chemical and never mix chemicals, which can create poisonous gases.
- Drain openers, toilet cleaners, rust removers and oven cleaners can cause burns to the skin.
- Even a small amount of windshield wiper fluid, which contains methanol, can cause blindness or

death to people and pets if swallowed or sprayed in someone's face.

- Gasoline, kerosene, charcoal lighter fluid, paint thinner, baby oil and furniture polish are poisonous. If swallowed, they can get into the lungs and cause severe breathing problems or permanent scarring of the lungs.
- When using pesticides outdoors, wear a face mask, gloves and protective clothing with long sleeves and long pants. Wash the clothing immediately after use.
- Pesticides that are taken into your skin or inhaled can be lethal. If they are accidentally splashed onto the skin, rinse the area with running water for 15 minutes.
- Many outdoor plants can cause allergic reactions, like intense itching and blisters. Learn to identify those that are poisonous like poison ivy, oak and sumac.

*Continued from page 4—Community Development*

borns, Domestic Violence Program, St. Clair Street Senior Center, Elders First, Greenhouse Ministries and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Rutherford County.

### OTHER PROGRAMS

The Community Development Department administers the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), a Homeless Preventions and Rapid Re-housing (HPRP) grant and a Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) grant for the Murfreesboro/Rutherford County Continuum of Care. All three come to the City from HUD through the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA).



Stones River Water Treatment Plant Cross Connection personnel won awards during a recent convention of the Tennessee Backflow Prevention Association. Pictured from left are Rolando Ordonez, Frank Maccagnano and David Risner.



# Garden flowers come alive in foyer of city's Community Center

By **MARY STATES**  
City Safety Director

*... creating a better quality of life ...*

That motto is more than just a phrase to the City of Murfreesboro.

McFadden Community Center and McFadden School of Excellence took the "creating" to heart and made "a better quality of life" for the more than 250 citizens who use McFadden Community Center daily.

Working together, the McFadden Community Center and School of Excellence created an oasis of beauty in the courtyard of the community center.

Susan Brian, guidance counselor at McFadden School, contacted McFadden Community Center Athletic Coordinator Gary Arbit to see if students from the school could plant flowers at the community center for an Earth Day activity.

Gary and Dean Ghee, McFadden Community Center custodians, immediately thought of the center's courtyard; Dean had wanted to upgrade the overgrown courtyard and the old broken concrete fountain that had been so unsightly.

The school's interest was the spark that was needed. Dean, with Gary's support, contacted Marta Morgan, Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation Department groundskeeper at Siegel Park (who happens to have a degree in Plant and Soil Science), to find out which plants to prune and which plants to discard.

The students cleaned the area and planted the flowers on Earth Day.

Parks and Recreation's maintenance crew removed the old fountain, which left a hole in the decking. So, Dean and Thomas Laird, MPRD athletic superintendent, went to a local home improvement store and bought decking and stain.

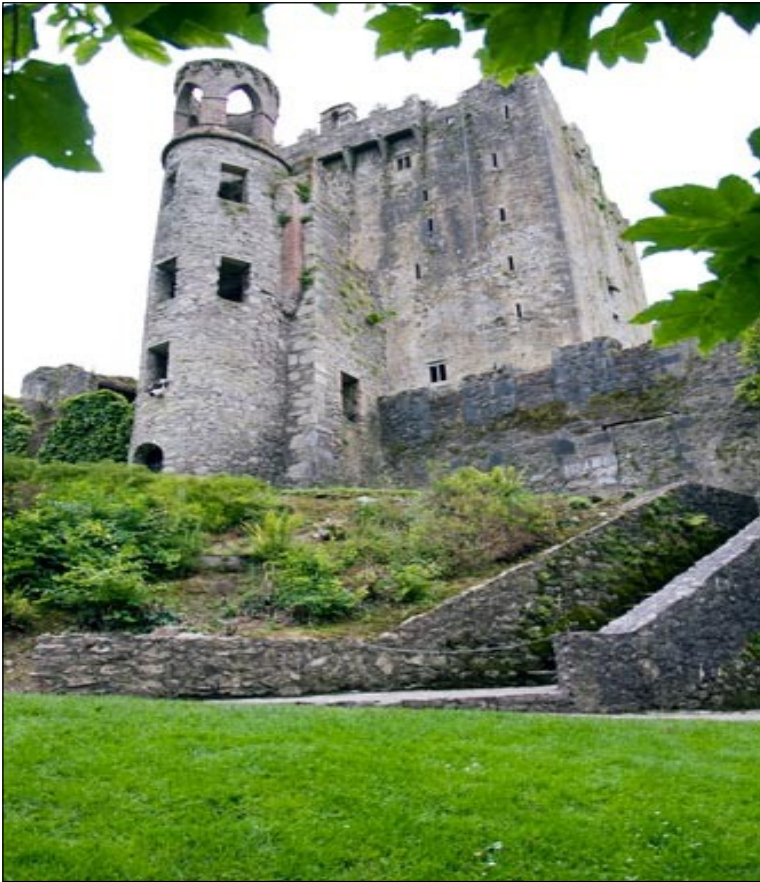
Dean repaired the deck and stained it. He acquired some unused benches from Sports\*Com and placed them on the deck. Dean went to several local landscaping companies and picked out more plants to compliment the flowers the students had planted.

The entire project cost less than \$300.

"Everyone who comes into McFadden Community Center admires the courtyard," said Barbara Wallace, receptionist at McFadden Community Center, who acted as consultant, advisor and admirer of the project.



The McFadden landscaping and flower project brightened up the middle foyer on the inside of McFadden Community Center.



Be it known upon all ye who be adventurous that, according to Irish legend, whoever kisses the Blarney Stone (atop this Castle of Blarney not far from Dublin) shall be forever gifted with eloquence and persuasiveness. Who are we to doubt an ancient Irish tradition ...



MWSD Director Joe Kirchner, holding plaque, was named Professional Engineer of the Year recently. Attending the ceremony were, from left, Stones River Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Alan Cranford, Kirchner, Darren Gore, department deputy director and Robert Haley, MWSD environmental engineer.

# News from the HR Corner ...

## *Thirty-day versus 90-day medication supply*

- You can only fill a 34-day supply of medication at your local retail pharmacy.
- A 90-day supply can be purchased through mail order at Orchard Rx
- You can enroll in Orchard Rx on-line at [www.orchardrx.com](http://www.orchardrx.com) or by calling 1-866-909-5170.

## *Medication pre-authorization*

Our Pharmacy Benefit Manager "Envision Rx" requires a pre-authorization for certain categories of medications. If a pre-authorization is required, your physician should contact Envision Rx at 1-800-361-4542.

Pre-authorization is required for the following: Red Blood Cell Formation, Multiple Sclerosis, Osteoporosis, Growth Hormone, Neutrophil Formation, Hepatitis C, Rheumatoid Arthritis/Psoriatic Arthritis, Acromegaly, Profuse Diarrhea, Actiq and Fentora, Misc Injectables: B-12, Testosterone, Acne Medications and ADD/ADHD medications.

## *Medication Formulary Change*

Medications may change tiers annually, effective Jan. 1. When a generic medication becomes available, the tier placement of both the brand and generic medications are evaluated. Medications may change tiers with this evaluation. Envision Rx will be sending out pharmacy update letters to those affected members that are currently taking a medication that will either be excluded, or cost more, effective Jan. 1 as a result of the regularly scheduled formulary change.

## *Over The Counter Medications (OTC)*

Certain OTC medications are available without a co-pay. OTC medications covered under your plan benefit do require a physician's prescription. Make sure your physician documents the correct milligrams for an OTC medication on the prescription instead of a prescription strength. The medication should be taken from the shelf and presented to the Pharmacy counter along with your prescription. The "\$0" co-pay does not apply if the prescription is filled by the pharmacy. The following medications are available over the counter with a "\$0" co-pay: Prilosec OTC, Prevacid, Zegerid, Claritin, Claritin-D, Abreva, Zaditor, Zyrtec, Zyrtec-D, Slo-Niacin Oral Tablet Extended Release. (Also available, any generic and trade alternatives to those listed)

## *ING (Deferred compensation 457 Plan)*

ING is now able to offer qualified City of Murfreesboro employees a Roth 457(b) plan. This means employees can choose to contribute on an after tax basis. To qualify you must be a full-time employee hired prior to July 1, 2010. For more details, please contact Ed Stewart, Financial Advisor at 615-627-5936 or [ed.stewart@ingfp.com](mailto:ed.stewart@ingfp.com).

## *Designation of Beneficiary for Unpaid Wages*

State law allows an employee to designate a beneficiary for any wages or salary that the employee may be due at the time of his or her death. In the absence of a designation – accrued wages will be paid to a surviving spouse. If there is no surviving spouse, then wages are paid out to surviving children. To complete a Designation of Beneficiary form for this purpose, please visit the Human Resources Department in City Hall or contact the department at 848-2553.

## *Laser Checks*

You may have noticed a new look on your paycheck stubs. The City has moved to laser-printed check stubs, which display your pay and benefits in a more organized and readable fashion. Please keep your check stubs because Human Resources will no longer keep duplicate copies of stubs when use of the new laser-print check stubs.



## Title VI follow-up

As an ongoing employee awareness of the reasons for and necessity of adherence to the rules of the federal law known as Title VI, commonly known as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Assistant Transportation Department Nellie Patton will be visiting various departments of City government to ensure that the City's Title VI policy is adequately posted in areas where employees congregate and to make certain that city employees are aware of the complaint process.

"Title VI is an important tool to ensure that all citizens of Murfreesboro are treated in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of, Patton said. This includes both employees of the city and the citizens who use our resources and services."

"As we focus on Customer Service Excellence as a city initiative," she added, "we want to make sure that we are also abiding by the Federal regulations that require equal treatment of our citizens, both internal and our customers."

## Patton elected to TPTA Board

In November of 2011, at the annual Tennessee Public Transit Association Conference in Chattanooga, Assistant

Transportation Director Nellie Patton was elected to the Board of Directors for a two-year term. TPTA represents all the public transit agencies in the state.

There are 23 agencies representing all 95 counties in Tennessee and is made up of rural and small and large urban public transit agencies and authorities.

## February sales tax collections up

City Manager Rob Lyons released good news about sales tax collections for this past February. "The amount for February (2012)," he said, "which represents December sales, was the highest in the past three years."

"The City is over \$1.6 million ahead over last year's sales tax collections," he added.

## MWSD gets 99 water quality score

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Division of Water Supply conducted two inspections of the city's water supply recently and gave it a score of 99 out of 100.

"The entire water system staff; water treatment plant certified operators, laboratory staff, field operations and maintenance workers, cross-connection control personnel, engineering personnel and construction inspectors, all deserve credit for achieving a Sanitary

Survey Score of 99," he stated. "The water treatment plant laboratory staff and certified operators deserve credit for maintaining certified laboratory status."

## MFRD promotion

Murfreesboro Fire and Rescue Department Driver Terrence Thomas was promoted to Captain on Feb. 11. He has been with the department since August of 1991.

## Jernigan named first female MFRD Asst. Chief

Murfreesboro Fire and Rescue Department Captain/Shift Inspector Kaye Jernigan has been named an assistant fire chief, becoming the highest ranking woman in its history.

A Rutherford County native, Jernigan has been a Captain/Shift Inspector since 1996.

She holds an Associate's Degree from Volunteer State Community College in Fire Science and a Bachelor's Degree from Middle Tennessee State University in Liberal Studies with a minor in Public Administration. She is State-Certified as Officer I and II, Instructor I, Safety Officer, Safety Compliance Officer I, Fire Inspector I and is an Emergency Medical Technician-IV. She has served on several departmental committees and has participated in public fire education programs.

Jernigan will be responsible for the department's fire suppression and rescue operations, including oversight of 10 fire stations, 170 shift personnel and multiple fire-related apparatuses.

## GIS app enhances weather warnings

The GIS Department has developed a new application that uses Data Feeds from NOAA and the latest available Radar, Tornado and Severe Thunderstorm warnings, Surface Air Temperature, Extreme Wind and Wind Direction.

GIS Coordinator Gerald Lee cautions users that the application is designed only to enhance existing means of getting current weather information.

Weather Feeds can be intermittent during maintenance periods or heavy peak loads.

Adobe Flash Player must be installed to access the service at <http://maps3.murfreesborotn.gov/Weather/Index.html> and feeds are available for the U.S. only. Find the free Adobe Flash Player at <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>.



## **MPD announces promotions; renames Internal Affairs Division**

Murfreesboro Police Department recently announced the promotions of Garry Carter and Craig Snider in the newly renamed Office of Professional Responsibility (formerly Internal Affairs).

Garry Carter was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and will be responsible for conducting internal reviews and investigating citizen complaints.

Snider was promoted to Sergeant and will assist in internal investigations as well as handle videotape requests and coordinate off-duty employment.

Maj. Anita Flagg was recently promoted to Commander of the Operations Division which includes the Office of Professional Responsibility, communications, records, grants and Tennessee State Accreditation.

These promotions were made after Maj. Hiram Lester and Sgt. Eddie Peel retired.

Also, Eric Cook was promoted to Major and Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division and, to assist, Nathan McDaniel was promoted to Captain.

"These individuals have all had outstanding careers and will help lead the department in their various divisions and assignments," Murfreesboro Chief of Police Glenn Chrisman said.

Other promotions include:

- Captain – Patrol: Alan Smith
- Lieutenant – Vice: William Sykes
- Lieutenant – Patrol: Don Fanning
- Sergeant – Vice: Hubert Jones
- Sergeant – Gang Unit: Jeff Keaton
- Sergeant – Patrol: Jeff Baskette
- Sergeant – Patrol: Kevin Dunn

### **"Juice" added to MPD force**

The Murfreesboro Police Department added K9 "Juice" to the Patrol Division K9 program today. Officer Greg Brown and "Juice" graduated from the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department's K9 training program.

The six-month, United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) approved training, certified Brown and "Juice" in missing person tracking, felony apprehension, evidence location, handler protection, and building searches.

"Juice", a 2-year-old German shepherd replaces the now-retired K9 "Murph". Officer Brown has been an MPD K9 handler for five years and a police officer for nine.



"Juice" and his handler Greg Brown



Wood promoted

### **MPD promotes Wood to Sergeant**

The Murfreesboro Police Department announced today the promotion of Mark Wood to Sergeant in the Patrol Division. Wood joined the Department in 2002 and was selected for the Special Operations Unit in 2006. He also served as a Field Training Officer and has received numerous commendation letters throughout his career.

## **MPD stats down in serious crime**

BY KYLE EVANS

MPD public relations officer

Though 2011 crime statistics showed a slight 1 percent rise overall, a crime report issued by Murfreesboro Police Department (MPD) stated Friday, there were decreases in five violent areas, including homicide, rape, robbery, larceny and arson.

Police officials said that total reports of Part I crimes to police in 2011 decreased markedly from 2010.

Crime trend data indicates there were decreases in five areas of reportable crime and increases in three.

Reports of homicide were down 40 percent in 2011 compared to 2010 or from five to three respectively. Reports of rape went down from 40 in 2010 to 29 in 2011, a 28 percent drop.

Robbery went down 31 percent or from 180 in 2010 to 125 in 2011. Reports of Larceny also went down 3 percent from 3,300 in 2010 to 3,185 in 2011 and Reports of Arson went down 80 percent from 15 in 2010 to three in 2011.

Assault reports went up 12 percent from 1,499 to 1,685, Burglary reports were up 3 percent from 1,316 to 1,352 during the year and Reports of Motor Vehicle Thefts were up 16 percent from 149 in 2010 to 173 in 2011.

"We are pleased to see that reports of violent crime, specifically homicides, robberies and rapes decreased in 2011, Chief of Police Glenn Chrisman said. "A priority was placed on implementing strategies to reduce these categories of crime.

"Now," he continued, "we have developed strategies to reduce the number of burglaries and property crimes that have risen slightly over the last year. A Directed Patrol unit was formed to address crime problems as they become known to police. Working with the Criminal Investigations Division, Crime Prevention Unit, and Uniformed Patrol, this unit has been largely successful at preventing violent criminal activity."

Officers responded to a record 101,194 calls for service in 2011, an 11 percent increase over 2010. Officers and detectives were responsible for over 9,565 criminal charges, a 19 percent increase.

Uniformed officers issued 16,547 citations in traffic-related cases and 23,088 parking citations. The Automated Red-Light Enforcement System began operating in June of 2008 and issued 11,936 citations in 2011, bringing the total number of citations to over 50,000. Fatal crashes occurring on Murfreesboro streets decreased from six in 2010 to two in 2011, a 67 percent decrease.

Of the three homicides in 2011, two have been cleared by arrest and are awaiting trial, while one remains under active investigation.

"While the reduction in violent crime is a significant step toward keeping our city safe," Chrisman said, "we will not stop with that success alone as we set our aim at reducing all categories of crime. I am proud of the dedication and the desire of our police officers, dispatchers, and all other members of the Murfreesboro Police Department to reduce crime and hold law violators accountable for their actions.

We will continue to work with our law enforcement and community partners to identify and incorporate innovative solutions to the safety and quality of life challenges our city faces from the criminal element, the Chief said. "Together we will continue to send a message that crime and criminal activity are not tolerated in Murfreesboro."